

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fingerprint identification device to identify fingerprints, comprising:

- a fingerprint reader unit to input a fingerprint to be detected;
- a database unit to record a fingerprint database provided in advance;
- a fingerprint comparing unit that identifies said input fingerprint input by said fingerprint reader unit by comparing with fingerprints stored in said fingerprint database recorded in said database unit; and
- a user recording unit that records the fingerprint input by said fingerprint reader unit, wherein said user recording unit automatically records said input fingerprint only when said fingerprint comparing unit does not identify said input fingerprint.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said user recording unit records said input fingerprint transmitted from said fingerprint reader unit, and said transmitted input fingerprint includes a raw data of said input fingerprint.

4. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, further comprising an image data processing unit to process said input fingerprint.

5. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 4, wherein said user recording unit records said input fingerprint transmitted from said image processing unit, and said transmitted input fingerprint includes processed data of said input fingerprint.

6. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, further comprising a feature extraction unit to extract a feature count from said input fingerprint.

7. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 6, wherein said user recording unit records the extracted feature count from said feature extraction unit, whereby said extracted feature count results in a compact data size.

8. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, further comprising a date counter that provides a date record used to generate a recording history.

9. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said device is used for access control.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and recording fingerprints, comprising:

recording reference fingerprints in advance in a database;
inputting a fingerprint to be detected;
comparing the input fingerprint to be detected to the reference fingerprints in the database; and

automatically recording the input fingerprint to be detected in a permanent user recording unit only when the input fingerprint to be detected does not match any of the reference fingerprints in the database.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising temporarily storing the input fingerprint to be detected; and recording the input fingerprint in the permanent user recording unit from the temporarily stored fingerprint only when the input fingerprint to be detected does not match any of the reference fingerprints in the database.
